



14 August, 2018

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) to  
Accelerate Investment in Broadband and Next-Generation Networks, WC Docket  
No. 18-141

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to you on behalf of California Ocean Science Trust. Our mission is to advance a constructive role for science in decision-making by promoting collaboration and mutual understanding among scientists, citizens, managers, and policymakers working toward sustained, healthy, and productive coastal and ocean ecosystems. We are a Sonic customer, and we urge you not to grant USTelecom's petition.

Sonic provides both our nonprofit organization's internet access and our phone service. We use their FlexLink 10mbps symmetric Ethernet and FlexLink Voice Lines for daily business as well as hosting public webinars. Sonic is helping us save the oceans one conference call at a time.

We use Sonic to support a local business, and because their customer support is unparalleled. The cost is comparable to any other local symmetric provider, but they have much less down time than many of our other options. Were we no longer to purchase from Sonic, we would likely be forced to separate our phone and internet plans and would lose a main line of communication with our partners during any transition (and likely afterwards).

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**OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST**  
2201 Broadway, Suite 101  
Oakland, CA 94612  
[www.oceansciencetrust.org](http://www.oceansciencetrust.org)



Please do not end the ability of providers like Sonic to offer an alternative to the incumbent providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Zook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Lori Zook  
Director of Finance  
California Ocean Science Trust